

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-15
COME-00 TRSE-00 EPG-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 PA-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 /117 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5370

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, OCON, AORG

SUBJ: 71ST FAO COUNCIL - INSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY: THE 71ST FAO COUNCIL HAS AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE 19TH CONFERENCE A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WHICH WILL INCREASE THE FAO COUNCIL TO 49, INCREASE THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE TO 11, INCREASE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO 9 AND PROVIDE FOR RE-ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 71ST FAO COUNCIL SPENT ONE DAY DISCUSSING THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL, THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE CCLM. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE WIDE-RANGING, WITH VARIOUS ISSUES RAISED UNDER EACH SUBJECT, BUT THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN SUMMED EACH UP AS A MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL FAVORING A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL; THEREFORE THE COUNCIL HAVING DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THE CHANGES TO THE CONFERENCE. IN EACH CASE THE GENERAL LINE OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISION WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE GROUP OF 77'S POSITION. THE U.S. WAS IN OPPOSITION IN THE PLENARY AND ARGUED FOR MORE CONSIDERED LANGUAGE IN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE. AFTER MUCH WRANGLING, MINORITY VIEWS ARE EXPRESSED IN THE REPORT.

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2. THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE'S PERTINENT LANGUAGE IN THE REPORT ON EACH OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS:

A. RE-ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL--BEGIN QUOTE THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR RE-APPOINTMENT. THE VERY GREAT MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL FULLY

SUPPORTED THE CASE FOR ENSURING ELIGIBILITY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR RE-APPOINTMENT WITHOUT LIMITATION ON NUMBER OR VARIATION IN LENGTH OF TERMS... A FEW MEMBERS FELT THAT, SINCE IT WAS ONLY IN 1971 THAT A SINGLE TERM OF OFFICE OF SIX YEARS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED, IT WAS PREMATURE TO TAKE A NEW DECISION WITHOUT FURTHER STUDY OF THE ISSUE INVOLVED, OR THAT, IN CASE OF RE-ELIGIBILITY, IT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE TERM OF 4 YEARS, FOLLOWING AN INITIAL TERM OF EQUALLY 4 YEARS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE INITIAL 6-YEAR TERM OF THE PRESENT INCUMBENT. END QUOTE.

B. INCREASE IN THE FAO COUNCIL--BEGIN QUOTE THE MAJORITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FINALLY AGREED THE COUNCIL BE INCREASED BY 7 SEATS GIVING A TOTAL OF 49 SEATS. THESE ADDITIONAL SEATS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS--3 TO AFRICA AND ONE EACH TO ASIA, THE FAR EAST, EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND THE NEAR EAST. END QUOTE IN THE COUNCIL DEBATE THERE WAS A LARGE MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF AN INCREASE, WHICH THE U.S. OPPOSED, BUT THE ABOVE AGREEMENT WAS A MIXTURE OF VIEWS PUT TOGETHER BY THE CHAIRMAN.

C. REGIONAL CONFERENCES: BEGIN QUOTE THE COUNCIL CONCURRED WITH THE WORKING PARTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER NATIONS IN EACH REGIONAL CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE MODALITIES OF ATTENDANCE BY OBSERVERS, SHOULD BE DECIDED BY THE COUNTRIES THAT IN FACT BELONG TO THE REGION CONCERNED, AT THE 1978 REGIONAL CONFERENCES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION AS WELL AS, AS APPROPRIATE, THE SITUATION IN OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING THEIR REGIONAL CONFERENCES.....

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.....CONFERENCES.

THE COUNCIL NOTED THE REQUEST ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP TO THE EFFECT THAT AS FROM THE NEXT LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE INVITATIONS TO ATTEND AS MEMBERS SHOULD BE ISSUED ONLY AND EXCLUSIVELY TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SERVICED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE, OTHER COUNTRIES BEING INVITED AS OBSERVERS. END QUOTE THE LATIN AMERICAN TOOK A VERY HARD LINE OPPOSING MEMBERSHIP IN THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES DESPITE A LACK OF SUPPORT FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP OF 77 WHO STATED THAT MEMBER NATIONS THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF A REGION SHOULD BE ENABLED TO ATTEND REGIONAL CONFERENCES EITHER AS OBSERVERS, OR IF JUSTIFIED AS FULL MEMBERS. THE LATINS INSISTED ON THE NOTICE OF THE REQUEST TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WHICH PLACES HIM IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE SPOT. FRANCE, THE U.S. AND THE NETHERLANDS MOST VOCALLY DEFENDED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING MEMBERS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE REGION PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN THOSE AREAS.

D. ENLARGEMENT OF THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES--

BEGIN QUOTE IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE VIEWS EXPRESSED THE COUNCIL AGREED TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE COMPOSED
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OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER NATIONS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT, BEFORE ELECTION, GOVERNMENTS WOULD INDICATE THE NAME OF THE REPRESENTATIVES THEY WOULD APPOINT IN CASE OF ELECTION, TOGETHER WITH A COMPLETE CURRICULUM VITAE OF THEIR PROSPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE WHO WOULD THEREFORE ALSO BE ELECTED ON PERSONAL MERIT.

B. THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INCREASED BY FOUR, BRINGING THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO 11 INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN.

C. THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE INCREASED BY FOUR, BRINGING THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TO 9 INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN.

D. THERE WOULD BE NO ALTERNATES ON THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES.

E. FAO SHOULD CONTINUE TO BEAR THE COST OF TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AT SESSIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES.

F. THE COUNCIL WOULD FIRST ELECT THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO COMMITTEES FROM AMONG THE CANDIDATES SUBMITTED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

G. IN ELECTING THE MEEMBERS OF THE TWO COMMITTEES, THE COUNCIL SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE PRINCIPLE OF SECURING AN EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION ON THE COMMITTEES. TO ENSURE THIS THE ELECTIONS TO THESE COMMITTEES WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN TWO STAGES. THE FIRST STAGE WOULD BE TO ELECT 8 MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND 6 MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FROM THE AFRICA, AUSIA AND THE FAR EAST, NEAR EAST AND LATIN AMERICAN REGIONS. THE SECOND STAGE WOULD BE TO ELECT 3 MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND 3 MEMBERS OF THE FIANCE COMMITTEE FROM THE EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH WEST PACIFIC REGIONS. THE ABOVE NUMBERS WOULD OF COURSE BE ADJUSTED BEFORE EACH STAGE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE REGIONAL AFFILIATION OF THE TWO CHAIRMEN ELECTED. END QUOTE A FEW (U.S.) COUNTRIES OPPOSED THE ABOVE CHANGES. AGAIN THERE WAS A MIXTURE OF VIEWS ESPECIALLY ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER MEMBERS WERE ELECTED IN A PERSONAL OR GOVERNMENT CAPACITY.GARDNER

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